AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-14 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A screw for use on hard materials, such as concrete or masonry, having

a shaft ~~(1)~~,

a head ~~(3)~~ in the vicinity of one end of the shaft ~~(1)~~,

a tip ~~(4)~~, and

a thread ~~(2)~~ extending for a plurality of turns around the shaft, wherein a series of cutting teeth are formed along at least one half turn of the thread, ~~that are formed on a side of the thread that faces away from the head~~ and wherein the cutting teeth having equal but opposite sides and are alternately ~~and laterally~~ offset ~~inclined to the left and right~~ to opposite sides of a longitudinal centerline of the thread. ~~over their full lengths~~.

2. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 1, wherein the ~~thread (2) has~~ cutting teeth form sawteeth disposed to opposite sides of the longitudinal centerline. ~~a sawtooth profile.~~

3. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 2, wherein ~~the leading edges (6) of~~ the sawteeth ~~(7)~~ have transverse leading edges that are roughly radially disposed with respect to a ~~the screw's~~ longitudinal axis ~~(8)~~ of the screw~~,~~.

4. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 1, wherein the thread has a crest, and wherein along ~~it's~~ the at least one half turn of the thread, the crest is flattened, forming a plurality of narrow faces (12).

5. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 4 ~~1~~, wherein the crest of the at least one half turn of the thread has cutting edges extending transverse to the longitudinal centerline of the thread ~~across it~~.

6. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 1, ~~any of the foregoing claims,~~ wherein the thread is formed with two sides having ~~at least one side of its thread has~~ alternating protrusions and notches.

7. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 3 ~~1~~, wherein ~~at least one side of the thread has roughly~~ the cutting teeth have leading edges extending down from the transverse leading edges towards the shaft, said downwardly extending leading edges also being radially disposed edges (11,17).

8. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 1, wherein the ~~thread (2) has a row of laterally offset~~ cutting teeth ~~(7)~~ are formed in a series along a longitudinal centerline of the thread. ~~bordering on one another~~.

9. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 3 ~~7~~, wherein the cutting teeth have sides ~~(15)~~ with edges that are displosed along radii ~~the radially disposed edges (11, 17) of the sides (15) of the thread extend~~ all the way down to the ~~screw's~~ shaft ~~(1)~~ of the screw.

10. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 9 ~~2~~, wherein the screw also has ~~the~~ notches ~~(10)~~ disposed between the cutting teeth ~~(7)~~ that do not extend all the way down to the ~~screw's~~ shaft ~~(1)~~ of the screw.

11. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 9 ~~1~~, wherein the included angle between the sides ~~(15)~~ of the

thread falls within the range extending from around 20 degrees to 30 degrees over that portion thereof that is ~~supposed~~ disposed to penetrate the wall of a drilled hole.

12. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim ~~1~~ 9, wherein ~~the included angle between~~ the sides ~~(15)~~ of the thread extend down to transition zones having an included angle that falls within the range extending from around 40 degrees to around 60 degrees over the transition zones immediately adjoining its shaft ~~(1)~~.

13. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 3, ~~2 any of claims 2-12~~, wherein the teeth ~~(7)~~ are each offset from one another by ~~the~~ a width of one of the narrow faces ~~of their face (12)~~.

14. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 1 ~~any of the foregoing claims~~, wherein at least one of the following varies over the length of the shaft:

a number of the cutting teeth ~~(7)~~ per unit length of thread, ~~and/or~~

the teeth forming a set of the cutting teeth ~~(7)~~, and~~/or~~

~~the~~ a depth~~s~~ of ~~the~~ notches ~~(10)~~ formed between the cutting teeth ~~(7)~~ ~~vary/varies over the length of the screw's shaft (1)~~.